

HAZARDOUS SUBSTANCE EXPOSURE (BIOLOGICAL AGENT) HEALTH & SAFETY ADVISORY

From the: City of San Diego (Fire and Life Safety Services and Police Department) and
County of San Diego (Department of Environmental Health, Health and Human Services Agency and Sheriff Department)

To all persons who may have been exposed to a biological agent

STAY CALM, YOUR WELL-BEING IS OUR PRIMARY CONCERN

A threat of exposure to a biological agent may exist at this location, and until proven otherwise will be managed by authorities as real. To ensure maximum safety, we are recommending that you **remain at this location until officials have assessed the threat and/or you have gone through a decontamination and evaluation process**. Please be patient with the Public Safety officials and follow their directions.

PLEASE COMPLETE THE “PATIENT CONTACT INFORMATION SHEET” THAT WILL BE PROVIDED TO YOU - THIS WILL ENABLE AUTHORITIES TO CONTACT YOU WITH ADDITIONAL INFORMATION AT A LATER TIME, AND IS KEPT CONFIDENTIAL.

If you choose to leave the area without being decontaminated or evaluated, it is very important that you follow these procedures for your safety, and the protection of anyone you may come in contact with:

1. Immediately proceed home in your own vehicle. If you must rely on the transportation of others (car pool or public transportation, etc.) **DO NOT LEAVE** without being decontaminated and/or evaluated first.
2. Prior to entering your house, it is recommended that you wet yourself down from head to toe, remove your clothes and accessories, and place them in a plastic bag. Avoid contact with others until you have done this. Seal and secure the bag in a safe place, awaiting further information and advice from health authorities.
3. Take a shower, thoroughly washing your hair and entire body with soap and water for at least ten minutes. After your shower there should be no risk of person-to-person transmission of the suspected material.
4. **Preliminary laboratory results will be available within 48 hours.** It is recommended that you avoid using the vehicle you drove until you are contacted with these results. If you must use the vehicle, wear gloves and wipe down all interior surfaces with a dilute bleach solution (one part household bleach to ten parts water). Damage to the vehicle may result. Do not use other household disinfectants, as they may not be totally effective against all possible biological agents.

Health, Fire and Law Enforcement authorities believe that incidents such as this are likely to be a **HOAX**. These precautions are intended to protect you against the slight chance that an actual hazardous biological agent was present. If it is determined that a real threat exists, you will be notified immediately, through the confidential contact information you provide to officials at the scene.

Additional information and instructions will be provided to you at the scene, specific to the nature of the threat received. **If you have concerns or questions about this potential exposure, please call the San Diego County Regional Poison Control Center at 1-800-876-4766.**

If you develop symptoms later that are consistent with the information provided to you at the scene, contact your physician as soon as possible.